

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the proper process for the establishment of temporary regulatory speed limits in work zones on all state highways.

Policy

Existing speed limits shall remain in effect through work zones on state highways except where those work zone activities would create a condition that would be aggravated by a retention of the existing speed limits. When such a condition occurs, the speed limit may be temporarily reduced 20 MPH on roads greater than or equal to 60 MPH, or 15 MPH on roads less than 60 MPH. All speed reductions that would exceed those stated shall be approved by the Division of Traffic and Safety.

Advisory and regulatory speed changes shall only be used during impacted times and in impacted areas. Work zone may be temporarily changed by one of the two following methods.

1. Conditions experienced in the field by either maintenance or construction work forces, a temporary regulatory speed limit may be set by the Region Director, after consultation with the Region Traffic Engineer. That temporary regulatory speed limit shall be in effect no longer than 15 calendar days. A one-time 15 calendar day extension of the temporary regulatory speed limit may be granted by the Region Director, after consultation with the region traffic Engineer. If the temporary regulatory speed limit, established by the Region Director, is to stay in effect longer than 30 calendar days, a formally approved TEO will be required.
2. A project under design, with a temporary regulatory speed limit, may be established as a part of the traffic control plan. Temporary regulatory speed limit signs shall not be erected until all appropriate work zone signs have been placed in accordance with the approved traffic control plans.

Definitions

TEO

A Traffic Engineering Order (TEO) is a document that specifies the authority to establish specific traffic regulations pertaining to directional movements, speed limits, parking restrictions, and railroad grade crossing exemptions. See Policy UDOT 06C-05 for further information regarding TEO's.

Procedures

Existing Work Zones

UDOT 06C-61.1

Responsibility: Construction/Maintenance Crew Supervisor

Actions

1. Determines the need for a temporary regulatory speed limit.
2. Prepares recommendation for the temporary regulatory speed limit and submits it to the region Traffic Engineer for consideration.

Responsibility: Region Traffic Engineer

3. Considers recommendation and submits to the Region Director with comments.

Responsibility: Region Director

4. Considers recommendation together with comments of Region Traffic Engineer and approves request if such action is determined to be appropriate. Said approval shall be for a 15 calendar day period.

Responsibility: Construction/Maintenance Crew Supervisor

5. Shall determine impacted areas and impacted times and make any signing changes that are necessary. This may require removing or covering any sign that is not appropriate or consistent with the construction impact.

Responsibility: Region Traffic Engineer

6. Periodically reviews work zone with temporary regulatory speed limit to make sure conditions are acceptable. Unacceptable conditions may require changing the temporary regulatory speed limit. Also determines if a 15 calendar day extension to the original temporary regulatory speed limit is appropriate.
7. Makes recommendation to the Region Director regarding a 15 day calendar day extension or to request the issuance of a TEO to cover a longer period.

Responsibility: Region Director

8. Considers recommendation of Region Traffic Engineer and, if appropriate, approves request for 15 calendar day extension or transmits a request for a TEO to the Division of Traffic and Safety.

Responsibility: Traffic and Safety Division

9. For justifiable requests, issues a TEO for a temporary regulatory speed limit within 7 calendar days of receiving said request.

Projects In Design

UDOT 06C-61.2

Responsibility: Design Engineer

Actions

1. In consultation with the Region Traffic Engineer, makes a determination that a temporary regulatory speed limit is appropriate and necessary for a project in design.
2. Designs or reviews traffic control plan submitted by contractor.
3. Submits project/traffic control plans to Traffic and Safety for review.

Responsibility: Traffic and Safety Division

4. During design review, verifies that proposed traffic control plan is adequate. Sign-off on the traffic control plan indicates approval of any temporary regulatory speed limits shown therein.